



Navy Environmental Quality Fact Sheet



Do you want to encourage plastic recycling?

Would you like to improve this process in the following areas?

- **Meet environmental compliance regulations.** Comply with Executive Order 13101 requirements and EPA comprehensive procurement guidelines to purchase products with recycled plastic content. Media area is solid waste.
- **Improve workers' safety and health.** No change to current operations
- **Increase productivity.** No change to current operations.
- **Save money.** Unlike wood products, recycled plastic content park and landscaping products do not degrade, and are not subject to insect infestation and, therefore, last much longer. This reduces overall life cycle costs.



Recycled-Plastic Park and Recreation Products

Federal procurement guidelines and directives require Department of Defense agencies to purchase recycled content products for EPA designated items. Plastic fencing, playground surfaces, and running tracks are park and recreation products that EPA has designated to contain recycled plastic content. In the future, park and recreational furniture and playground equipment will be added to the list of designated items. Products made with post-consumer materials are made from materials that would otherwise go into a landfill. These materials also do not have to be mined or harvested as do virgin materials. Affirmative procurement of these products for use at Navy installations stimulates plastic recycling markets, reduces life cycle costs, and protects the environment.

How can you achieve these improvements?

Purchase recycled-content park and recreation products.

How does this equipment work?

Recycled content products are made from materials that would otherwise go into the landfill if they were not used to make these products.

How will this equipment save you money?

Recycled-content plastic products last much longer than conventional products, reducing procurement and maintenance costs. Also, plastic materials that would be diverted to a landfill at a cost can be recycled to generate revenue.



How can this method eliminate or reduce pollution?

Purchasing recycled-content products increases the recycled-product market and reduces the disposal of recyclable materials. Implementation will result in the following pollution reductions:

- Reduce the quantity of solid waste disposed of in landfills and incinerators.
- Reduce the quantity of solid waste transported off-site from Navy installations.
- Reduce the quantity of waste generated from manufacturing using raw or virgin materials.

Which applications can benefit most from this method?

Recycled-content park and recreation products can be used at all Navy shore installations. Typical applications include:

- Moral, Welfare and Recreation Activities
- Base Housing Areas

How can this method reduce regulatory compliance concerns?

Purchasing park and recreation site furnishings made from recycled-content plastic lumber increases the demand for recycled materials. This practice will result in the following regulatory compliance benefits:

- Helps facilities comply with the waste reduction and affirmative procurement requirements of Executive Order 13101.
- Helps facilities comply with 40 CFR part 247 and meet the EPA's recovered materials advisory notice.
- May help facilities meet pertinent solid waste reduction goals including the Department of Defense Measure of Merit goal to ensure the diversion rate for non-hazardous solid waste is greater than 40% by 2005.



Achieving Environmental Compliance Through Pollution Prevention

Every day the Navy faces the challenge of operating and maintaining the fleet while complying with environmental regulations. This burden can be reduced by using pollution prevention technologies and methods to reduce compliance requirements. This fact sheet is one in a series designed to encourage activities to use pollution prevention technologies and methods. The overall goal of this series is to promote sustained environmental compliance at the lowest life-cycle cost.

For additional information, contact:

Information on recycled-content Park and Recreation Products can be found on the US EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines web site ([Web: http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/products.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/products.htm))

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